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REMARKS

Claims 17 and 21-23 are currently pending in the application. Claim 17 has been amended and new claims 21-23 have been introduced. Claims drawn to non-elected groups have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants right to pursue the cancelled claims in this or a subsequent application.

Support for the amendment to claim 17 may be found throughout the specification. More particularly, pages 65 and 66 provide screening methods for identifying compounds capable of changing the binding of a ligand polypeptide to a G protein-coupled receptor protein. Page 47, line 19 to page 48, line 10 and page 49, lines 15-20 provide that SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, and SEQ ID NO:22 are G protein-coupled receptor proteins suitable for use in the methods of the invention. Thus, the amendment to claim 17 is fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been introduced.

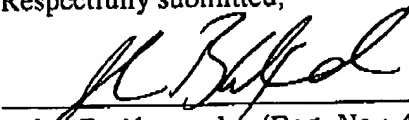
Claims 21 and 22 are fully supported by the application as filed. See, for example, original claims 1-3. Claim 23 is fully supported by claim 17 as originally filed.

Thus, no new matter has been introduced by the instant amendment.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

June 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


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Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Presently Amended) A screening method for a compound capable of changing the binding activity of ~~the a ligand polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 or the partial peptide as claimed in claim 4 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 73, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof,~~ with a receptor protein comprising ~~an the amino acid sequence represented by of SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, or SEQ ID NO: 22 or its partial peptide or its substantial equivalent thereto, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said receptor protein, or a salt thereof,~~ the method which comprises making a comparison of said binding activity between:

(i) at least one case where said ~~ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1 or the partial peptide as claimed in claim 4 is contacted with a receptor protein comprising ~~an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 21 or a salt thereof or its a partial peptide of said receptor protein or its substantial equivalent thereto, or a salt thereof,~~ and

(ii) at least one case where said ~~ligand polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1 or the partial peptide as claimed in claim 4 together with a sample containing the compound to be tested is contacted with the receptor protein comprising ~~an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 32 or it partial peptide or its substantial equivalent, or a salt thereof or a partial peptide of said receptor protein or a~~

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salt thereof.

18-20

~~18:20.~~ (Cancelled).

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ligand polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO: 47, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO: 61, SEQ ID NO:62, SEQ ID NO:63, SEQ ID NO:64, SEQ ID NO:65, or SEQ ID NO:66.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ligand polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:45, or SEQ ID NO:59.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the receptor protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21.
